

He has raffled off old gloves with his signature nicknames to raise money for the Sjögren's Foundation — which helps fight Sjögren's syndrome, a disease his mother suffers from.

Gardiner hoops event set to tip off in Bronx

Some of the nation's best street basketball players will be on the court in the 10th annual Gardiner Memorial Basketball Classic.

The two-tournament begins at noon on Aug. 15-16, and with the help of the law firm Gersowitz Libo & Korek, P.C., the event will raise funds and increase awareness for the Gardiner Foundation.

There will be free food, entertainment, giveaways, and activities for the children. The giveaways will include 350 backpacks filled with school supplies, and a drawing for

the chance to win one of 20 tablets and two iPad minis.

In years past, professional basketball players like **John Starks**, **Ryan Gomez** and **Ben Gordon** have attended the event to motivate and encourage local youth to finish their education and achieve their dreams.

Dexter Gardiner founded The Gardiner Foundation, in memoriam of the loss of six of his family members in a horrific car accident on the Bronx River Parkway on July 9, 2006. His foundation's mission is to support Bronx community members experiencing various social and financial needs stemming from the sudden and tragic loss of a family member.

There is no cost for this event. Those interested in offering support can send a check made payable to "The Gardiner Foundation" and mail to 111 Broadway, 12th Floor, New York, NY 10006.